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Bangalore Mirror

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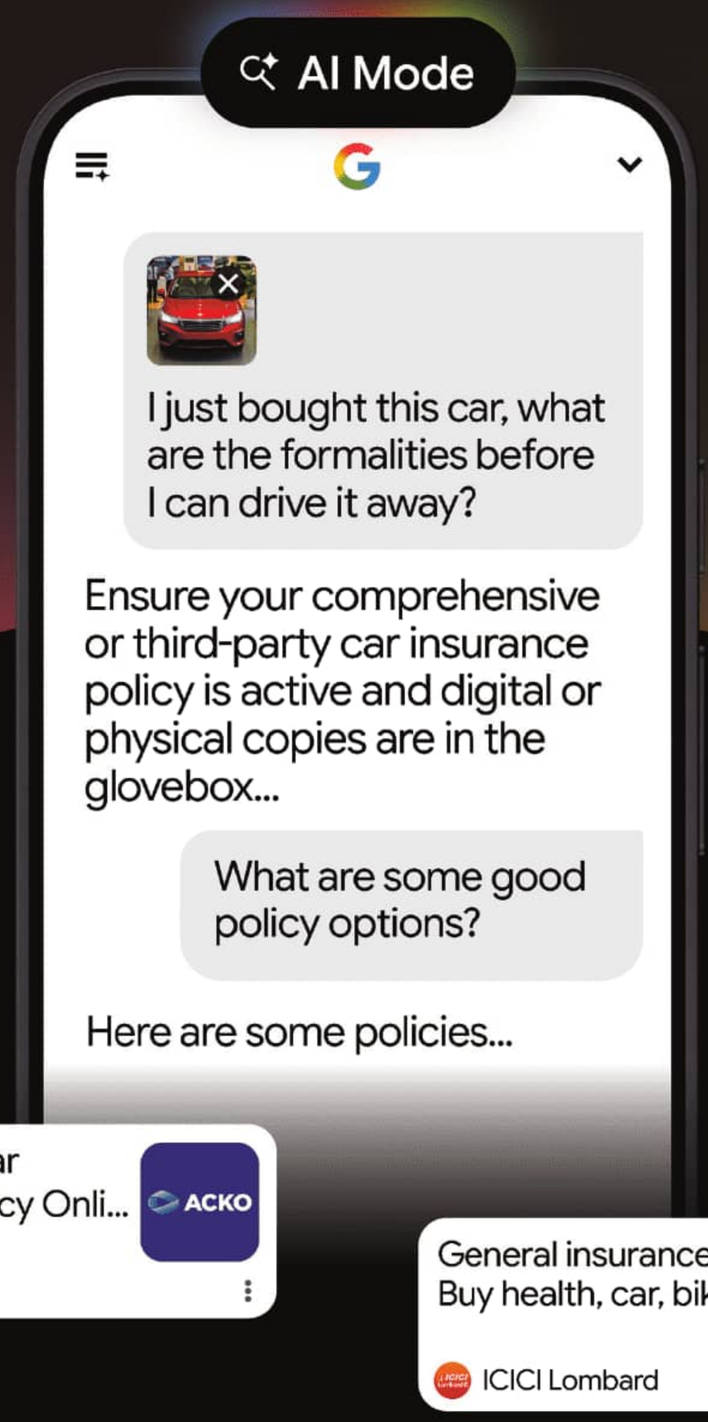
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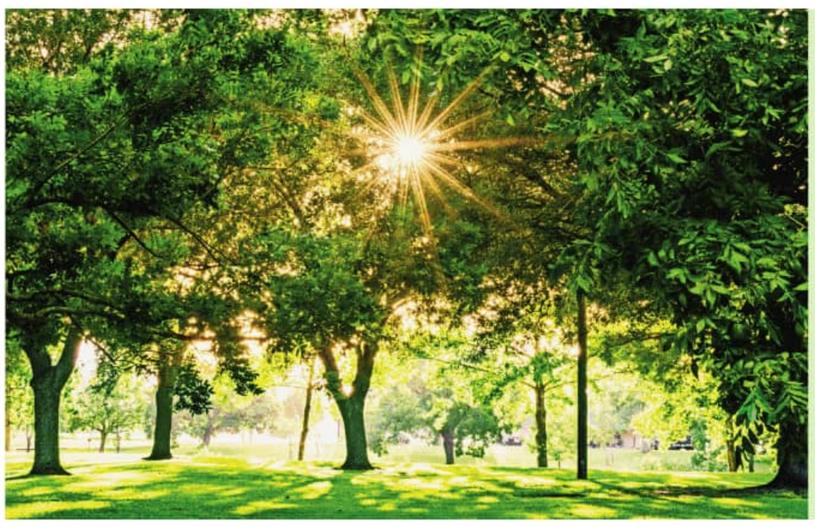

PARK BONANZA

Civic agency working on proposal to develop 25-30 new parks across Bengaluru at estimated cost of ₹50-52 crore

PAGE 4

PRECIOUS E-RIDES

Premium electric vehicles to become costlier as State Govt withdraws lifetime road tax exemption for cars above ₹10 lakh

PAGE 5

Metro's Blue Line to airport remains a mirage due to delays in project and now as rupee weakens against US dollar, BMRCL finds itself staring at mounting loan pressure as every dollar repaid is nearly Rs 21 more today than it was in 2021

BLUE LINE BLUES

Corporation had signed $500 mn loan agreement with ADB in 2021

| Sridhar.Vivan
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Even as the Metro's much-awaited Blue Line to Kempegowda International Airport remains distant due to project delays, Bangalore Metro Rail Corporation Limited (BMRCL) is now facing a fresh financial challenge.

The corporation has begun repaying a major overseas loan for the project at a time when operations have not commenced and revenue generation is absent.

The burden has become heavier because repayment must be made in US dollars, whose value has risen sharply against the rupee since the loan was sanctioned.

The corporation signed a $500 million loan agreement with the Asian Development Bank on August 19, 2021, for the Phase 2A and 2B Metro project, which had a 25-year tenure including a five-year moratorium on principal repayment. With the grace period ending this June, loan servicing has

CONTINUED ON PAGE 6 »

"When there is no income from the corridor, the repayments will have to be met through earnings from existing metro lines. Ultimately, the financial burden may also reflect on passengers

—Mobility expert

Done & dusted

Mounds of dust and mud swept and collected by pourakarmikas lie on footpaths across city's roads as BSWML fails to take it away

| Y Maheswara Reddy
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The health officers of City Corporations organise cleaning drives to ensure roads are free from dust and loose mud to avoid two-wheelers skidding. Pourakarmikas engaged in sweeping and cleaning collect the dust and keep it on the footpath as they do not have the facility to transport it to the designated location.

Earlier, the health department had the manpower and vehicles to transport garbage or debris. Now, this work has been assigned to Bengaluru Solid Waste Management Limited (BSWML), while the pourakarmikas focus only on sweeping the roads.

A few weeks ago, pourakarmikas were engaged to clear dust on Suranjan Das Road. The pourakarmikas religiously swept the road and collected dust and loose mud and kept it on the footpath-cum-drain. Now, seedlings are growing on heaps of dust kept at different locations.

"It is the same in other localities. Pourakarmikas simply do their duty – sweep the road and collect dust and keep it on the footpath. I happened to complain to the authorities but nothing was done to clear those heaps. The BSWML employees, especially marshals, are not bothered to clear it. The authorities must coordinate with the health department of the City Corporations and the BSWML to fix

CONTINUED ON PAGE 6 »

THINGS TO DO

01 Literary escapades

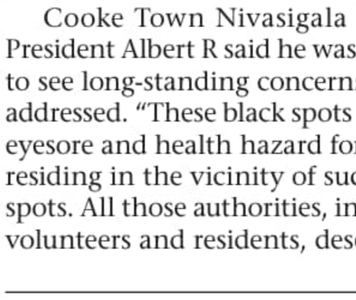
Bhartiya Mall of Bengaluru invites book lovers to immerse themselves in the world of stories, ideas and inspiration at the Big Bangalore Book Fest, with the opportunity to interact with Anita Nair, one of India's most acclaimed contemporary authors. **Where: Bhartiya Mall of Bengaluru; When: June 27, 5 pm**

02 Soulful melody

Acclaimed sarangi artist Sarfaraaz Khan will be performing for an intimate recital featuring a morning raga, bringing a morning where melody, atmosphere and the rhythms of the day unite in a contemplative musical journey. **Where: Lumbini, Jagriti Theatre; When: June 28, 7.30 am**

03 Graceful steps

Natanam Institute of Dance presents 'Nruthya Sammilana', a grand Bharatanatyam recital featuring Maanasa Ranga and Divya Vijayalakshmi Dharmarajan, disciples of renowned Bharatanatyam exponent Vidushi Dr Raksha Karthik. **Where: Medai – The Stage, Shanthala Nagar; When: June 28, 10 am**



04 Buzzing bazaar

Flo Sante 2026 offers a one-day curated shopping experience bringing together a wide range of women-led brands across fashion, jewellery, home décor, lifestyle, food and more. **Where: Princess Shrine; When: July 3, 10 am**

05 Lore and behold

Storyteller Vikram Sridhar will be hosting a walk through the lanes of Indiranagar, exploring the area's folklore, heritage and ecology, weaving together historical, mythical and personal narratives that bring the neighbourhood to life. **Where: Atta Galatta, Indiranagar; When: June 27, 7 am**

Rare visitor at Turahalli thrills nature enthusiasts

After long absence, elusive tiger beetle species resurfaces in Bengaluru, reigniting scientific curiosity and spotlighting overlooked biodiversity hidden within rapidly changing landscapes

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Team comprising experts and volunteers from Tiger Beetle Watch

After nearly four decades, a rare tiger beetle has been sighted once again near Bengaluru's Turahalli Forest. This remarkable rediscovery has drawn attention to one of India's lesser-known insect groups—species whose records had long remained buried in decades-old scientific literature. The find comes at a time when urban forests are taking centre stage in conservation conversations. Backing this effort is Tiger Beetle Watch, a citizen science initiative launched in 2024. The programme is actively documenting India's tiger beetles while encouraging wider participation in biodiversity monitoring. At present, the project aims to build a comprehensive database of the nation's 246 known tiger beetle species, out of which 120 are endemic to India.

During routine field observations around the Turahalli landscape, Uma, a member, spotted the elusive insect after tracking it for hours. She shared that she has been exploring and documenting species in and around the Turahalli area for over five years now, and coming across this particular sighting was unexpected. Once the observation was uploaded, the species was later examined against field guides.

The specimen was later verified against field guides and identified as Cicindela psarodea, a species formally described in 1989. Historical records, however, reveal that the beetle had been collected much earlier—the oldest known specimen dates back to 1973 near Bengaluru. It was also collected by entomologist David L Pearson in 1984, leading to its eventual recognition as a species new to science.

As per experts, the tiger beetle is a predatory insect known for its sharp mandibles, speed and striking colours. They are recorded to inhabit forest paths, scrublands and open grounds, while many other species are found along sandy stream banks. They are known to occupy highly specialised habitats, as they can be sensitive to environmental changes.

According to Sharan V, founder of Tiger Beetle Watch, documenting insects has become increasingly important as natural habitats are constantly under threat due to rapid urbanisation and diminishing natural spaces. Field observations suggest that many tiger beetles are active only during short seasonal windows. In the months of April and May, which are usually pre monsoon for Karnataka, several species of tiger beetles have been found to be flourishing.

He shared that the project cites around 77 tiger beetle species as recorded in Karnataka, out of which roughly 43 to 45 species have been documented and observed by the members.

The rediscovery has also underscored the rapid growth of Tiger Beetle Watch.

According to Sharan, documenting tiger beetles requires patience rather than specialised equipment. One has to spend hours walking through suitable habitats, almost never losing sight of the ground, where these bugs begin to appear. Once a beetle is spotted, the volunteer has to approach it carefully and notice its tracks by mindfully watching the ground for more movement. Then, without disturbing it, photographs are taken from multiple angles, which later help identify colour patterns, body shape and markings. The images are uploaded to iNaturalist, where they are reviewed by other enthusiasts and experts, gradually building a record of the species' distribution, seasonal activity and behaviour.

For Sharan, Uma and other volunteers, the rediscovery has been a reminder that many species may still persist unnoticed, even as urbanisation rapidly expands. Sharan noted that in just the last two seasons, surveys in Kodagu revealed 12 to 13 species of tiger beetles, underscoring their remarkable diversity. Yet, he added, there remain significant blind spots in research, as tiger beetles continue to be poorly studied.

Black spots across city get long-awaited makeover

Residents of Hutchins Road, Banaswadi, OMBR Layout and Sarvodaya Nagar have expressed delight over the recent beautification of long-neglected black spots by Bengaluru North City Corporation (BNCC) staff and local volunteers.

For years, residents had appealed for action, but their requests went unanswered. Now, with visible improvements across several locations in the Sarvagnanagar Assembly constituency, community members are eager to acknowledge the efforts behind the transformation.

Cooke Town Nivasigala Sangha President Albert R said he was pleased to see long-standing concerns finally addressed. "These black spots were an eyesore and health hazard for people residing in the vicinity of such black spots. All those authorities, including volunteers and residents, deserve appreciation for beautifying the black spots. I hope the residents and the BNCC employees (pourakarmikas) will ensure these places are free from garbage," he said.

BM published a story 'Neglected railway land turns into burning garbage nightmare' on April 15, 2026, narrating how repeated complaints were ignored as garbage piled up.

Vijaya Bhaskar Reddy, a resident of Hutchins Road, who resides in the vicinity of the black spot, said that he was happy to see BNCC employees clearing garbage and beautifying the black spot. "I want the BNCC authorities to have coordination with railway authorities to take measures preventing people dumping garbage on the railway land. I hope the authorities concerned will ensure the place is free from nuisance and garbage," he said.

Beautification drive comes following complaints over mounting garbage in area

BSWML Assistant General Manager Mamatha said, "We have already beautified some of the black spots on 4th Cross of OMBR Layout, Arabic College Main Road, Sarvodaya Nagar Burial Ground and Banaswadi Railway Underpass. We have identified black spots and will beautify all of them." **— Y Maheswara Reddy**

Brinjal prices skyrocket amid supply disruption

Erratic weather across Karnataka and neighbouring states over the past fortnight has pushed vegetable prices higher, with heavy rains damaging crops in some regions and dry conditions ruining harvests elsewhere. The supply crunch has sent the prices of several vegetables and greens soaring. White brinjal has, for the first time, touched Rs 100-110 per kg, leaving 'vangibath' lovers paying a premium. Capsicum and 'bajji' chillies are also inching towards the Rs 100 mark, while beetroot, cabbage, green chillies and drumsticks have all become costlier.

Leafy vegetables have been among the worst hit, with methi leaves selling at Rs 135 per kg at HOPCOMS and Rs 35-40 per bunch in retail markets. Prices of dill and mint have also risen sharply.

The impact is being felt beyond vegetables. Egg prices have climbed from around Rs 5.30 in May to Rs 7.50-7.80 apiece in retail markets as demand picked up with the reopening of schools and the onset of the monsoon. According to the National Egg Coordination Committee, Karnataka produces around 1.5 crore eggs daily, but increased consumption has pushed up prices. While tomato prices have eased from Rs 50-60 per kg last week to Rs 30-40 per kg due to higher arrivals, drumstick prices have jumped from Rs 55 to nearly Rs 90 per kg in just two weeks. Traders say fluctuations in rainfall, drought-like conditions in some pockets and floods in others have disrupted supplies and triggered the price rise. **— BMB**

Woman held for murder of parents, sister

A 25-year-old woman accused of murdering her parents and younger sister in a gruesome triple murder case under KR Puram Police Station limits was arrested by city police at Puducherry Railway Station on Wednesday. Her boyfriend, who is suspected to have assisted in the crime, remains absconding, officials said.

The incident came to light on Monday night at Sai Green Apartment in Seegehalli, under the limits of KR Puram Police Station. The victims were identified as Somasundar (52), his wife Muthulakshmi (48), and their younger daughter Supriya (19), all of whom were found brutally stabbed inside the apartment.

According to police, the accused, Shwetha, had been living with her boyfriend Kenneth in the rented apartment for the past two months.

Police said she had borrowed nearly Rs 30 lakh from a bank and had failed to repay the monthly installments, following which loan recovery notices were sent to her father's residence in Marathahalli.

Accused claims partner had no role in murder, contradicting victim's statement

Police said Muthulakshmi visited the apartment on Sunday and allegedly confronted her daughter after seeing the couple together, asking her to end the relationship. Enraged, Shwetha and Kenneth allegedly stabbed her to death.

Later, Shwetha allegedly invited her father and sister home for dinner. During the visit, she reportedly attacked and stabbed both of them. Her father, despite sustaining severe injuries, somehow managed to escape and run outside the house. The couple then fled the apartment on a motorcycle on Monday night.

Somasunder, who was admitted to a hospital with critical injuries, gave a statement before his death, which became a key lead in the investigation.

During the investigation, according to Shwetha's statement, Kenneth was in another room wearing headphones when Muthulakshmi was attacked and he only helped clean the apartment and move the body afterward. However, police suspect she may be misleading investigators, as Somasundar's dying declaration reportedly named Kenneth as an attacker. Police officials believe Kenneth's arrest is key to establishing the sequence of events. —BMB

Animals rescued from pet shop in B'luru

Following a complaint by an animal welfare organisation, Bengaluru City Police and the Animal Husbandry Department (AHD) recently rescued over 50 animals and birds from a pet shop in Koramangala.

The authorities swung into action after learning about the deplorable conditions in which animals of various species were being confined at the pet shop.

The complaint was filed by the People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals India (PETA India) after its volunteers noticed a few days-old chickens dyed bright colours being sold at the shop. The group documented the condition of the animals and filed complaints with the Bengaluru Society for Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (SPCA), Koramangala and Adugodi police stations, and the Karnataka Animal Husbandry Department.

Authorities take action after learning of animals kept in appalling conditions at pet shop

Following the complaint, the pet shop was served a notice by the Chief Veterinary Officer on June 1 for operating without the mandatory licence and for non-compliance with the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (Pet Shop) Rules, 2018, and the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act, 1960.

With the support of the police, 46 chicks and one hamster suffering from an eye infection were rescued on May 31 and sent for medical treatment.

In a separate operation on June 1, one lovebird with a leg deformity, two visibly sick and distressed cockatiels, one jenday conure and one sun conure were rescued. The jenday conure and sun conure are CITES Appendix II species and fall within Schedule IV of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972.

"We have urged the concerned authorities, particularly the District SPCA, to take stringent and decisive action against all illegal pet shops operating without the requisite licences and permissions. Citizens can also pitch in and help by refusing to buy animals from pet stores and breeders," said PETA's Senior Cruelty Response Coordinator Sinchana Subramanyan. —BMB

CRIME FILES

Serial burglar nabbed by police

Banaswadi police on Wednesday arrested a notorious habitual offender wanted in multiple house-breaking theft cases, who was allegedly involved in 67 criminal cases across Bengaluru city and the districts of Kolar and Yadgir. The accused had also been absconding in more than 30 non-bailable warrant (NBW) cases and over five proclamation cases, officials said.

The accused, identified as Syed Abrar, had allegedly been absconding for several years and was wanted in connection with multiple pending cases. The case came to light after a resident of HRBR Layout, 1st Block, Kalyan Nagar, lodged a complaint on March 23, 2026. The complainant stated that he had travelled to his native place between March 14 and March 23. During his absence, unknown persons allegedly broke open the terrace door of his house, entered the premises and stole Rs 10,000 in cash kept inside a cupboard.

Based on the complaint, police registered a case and launched an investigation. Acting on credible information gathered through informers, police secured a suspect near Bagaluru on June 16. During interrogation, the accused reportedly confessed to committing the theft. On June 20, the accused was produced before the court and remanded to judicial custody.. —BMB

Rowdy-sheeter held for evading court proceedings

The Central Crime Branch (CCB) police arrested a rowdy-sheeter who had been absconding and repeatedly evading court appearances despite proclamation and warrant orders issued by a court.

The accused has been identified as Shakeeb alias Syed Akeeb Pasha (30). He was apprehended on June 23 during a special drive by CCB officials to trace habitual offenders who had failed to appear before court for trial proceedings.

Police said they received credible information that Shakeeb was near Allalasandra flyover within the Yelahanka Police Station limits. Acting swiftly, a CCB team reached the spot, verified the information and secured him.

During interrogation, police found that more than 11 criminal cases had been registered against him across various police stations in Bengaluru and in other states. In at least three cases, he had failed to appear before the court on scheduled hearing dates, prompting the court to issue proclamation and non-bailable warrant orders.

Shakeeb was produced before Soladevanahalli Police Station for further legal proceedings. A fresh case has been registered. —BMB

Man loses over Rs 2 crore in fake investment scam

A 63-year-old retired employee was allegedly cheated of more than Rs 2.05 crore in an online investment fraud after scammers lured him with promises of 300 per cent returns through a fake investment scheme.

According to the complaint filed by BN Kishore, the fraud began after he came across information about the "Kanishka Scheme" on X (formerly Twitter). After clicking the link, he was redirected to WhatsApp groups. The fraudsters allegedly masqueraded as investment advisors and experts, persuading Kishore to invest through a trading platform called arbrokerpro.com by falsely claiming that their company was registered with the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI). In the WhatsApp groups, one of the accused posed as a professor, offering investment guidance to win the complainant's confidence.

Believing their claims, Kishore transferred money to multiple bank accounts as instructed, between May 12 and June 17, 2026. However, after neither receiving profits nor getting his investment back, he realised he had been duped and lodged a complaint. South CEN Crime police have registered a case and launched an investigation. —BMB

City of parks is slated to become city of more parks

GBA proposes 25-30 parks under ₹50-crore plan as citizens urge focus on underserved neighbourhoods, accessibility, community spaces and maintenance

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Existing parks need consistent upkeep despite push for new developments

The Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA) is working on a Rs.50-crore plan to expand the city's green infrastructure. The Horticulture Department under GBA's Forest, Environment and Climate Change Cell (FECCC) is preparing a proposal to develop 25-30 new parks across Bengaluru at an estimated cost of ₹50-52 crore. "We are working on a plan to create more parks in the city, not only to enhance green cover and provide lung spaces, but also to create community spaces where citizens can gather and interact," said an official from the Horticulture Department.

Currently, the department maintains around 1,350 parks across Bengaluru. While citizens have welcomed the proposal, many stressed the need to prioritise localities that lack adequate open spaces and recreational facilities.

"We do not have a park in our locality where residents can go for a morning or evening walk. Many senior citizens are effectively confined indoors because of the lack of open spaces. While walking on pavements along busy roads is an option, it is neither safe nor pleasant due to heavy traffic. The nearest suitable place for walking is National Games Village, but it is not within walking distance for most residents," said Janet Sk Yegneswaran, a senior citizen.

Citizens said the department should conduct a ground-level assessment to identify areas underserved by parks and recreational spaces using field surveys and residents' feedback. According to Preeti Sundarajan, a resident of Malleswaram, most walkers in the area currently depend on Sankey Tank for their daily walks. A new park would help distribute the crowd and provide easier access to recreational space for the elderly. "Maintaining existing parks is not optional; it is a basic responsibility of the department. At the same time, if suitable spaces can be identified in Malleswaram for developing new parks, it would greatly benefit senior citizens in the area," said Sundarajan. She noted that Malleswaram has a significant elderly population and that 6th Main Road, once popular for walks, has become increasingly congested due to traffic diversions from white-topping work on 8th Main Road.

> **"Most of them are reasonably well maintained. However, the authorities must look beyond basic upkeep and create spaces that can support community activities and events**
> – Rachana Ravi, citizen

Citizens also emphasised the need to maintain existing parks, particularly when Bengaluru has very little open land left for developing new ones. "We have a couple of parks in RR Nagar, and I have also visited parks in Basavanagudi. Most of them are reasonably well maintained. However, the authorities must look beyond basic upkeep and create spaces that can support community activities and events," said Rachana Ravi, a resident of RR Nagar.

whatsapp MIRROR 9591233247

Problems in your area?
Send us a picture along with specific details. And please, no phone calls or spamming

Take trash out

Sultanpet

Garbage collection has remained suspended for three days at 2nd Cross, KV Temple Street, Sultanpet, causing inconvenience to residents and creating concerns near a school.

Tree damage

Brunton Road

Trees are reportedly being damaged during drain remodelling work at Brunton Road Cross, raising environmental concerns among residents and highlighting the need for careful construction practices.

Flyover fury: Indiranagar residents question mega plan

Residents raise six concerns over elevated corridor proposal citing flawed data, unclear objectives, congestion risks, and missing comprehensive mobility planning

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The members of I Change Indiranagar have expressed reservations about the detailed project report (DPR) for the proposed elevated corridor between Swami Vivekananda Metro Station and Silk Board Junction. The corridor is expected to pass through 80 Feet Road, 100 Feet Road, and a portion of Chinmaya Mission Hospital (CMH) Road. Members of I Change Indiranagar, a federation of residents' welfare associations, met Bengaluru Smart Infrastructure Limited (B-SMILE) Technical Director BS Prahlad on Tuesday and highlighted six substantive concerns regarding the project.

In a letter, they stated that the proposed elevated corridor does not appear in the Comprehensive Mobility Plan (CMP) 2020. "The DPR references only the Revised Master Plan (RMP) 2015 to confirm road-reservation widths; it makes no reference to the CMP 2020. Table 4.7 of the CMP 2020, which identifies mobility corridors requiring improvement, lists none of the roads along the DPR alignment. Nowhere does the CMP 2020 identify 80 Feet Road, 100 Feet Road, or CMH Road as part of an elevated corridor. We would be grateful for a reference to where this project sits within the CMP 2020," the letter reads. The residents also said the problem statement was inadequately defined. The alignment crosses 18 junctions between Old Madras Road and Silk Board Junction, yet traffic data appears to come from a single count location near Domlur on the Inner Ring Road. "A single mid-corridor count was done for 14 hours as opposed to a minimum of 24 hours and it cannot establish the origin or destination of the traffic the corridor is meant to serve. With no data captured on Old Madras Road or at other junctions within Indiranagar, the objective of an elevated corridor through Indiranagar cannot be substantiated," the letter states.

> **"With no data from Old Madras Road or at other junctions within Indiranagar, the objective of an elevated corridor through Indiranagar cannot be substantiated**
> – From a letter to B-SMILE chief

The residents added the data collection does not meet Indian Roads Congress guidelines for grade separators and elevated structures. "The DPR addresses only two of these completely and one in part. The intersection volume-delay survey has not been carried out at all. The DPR is silent on grade-level traffic and pedestrian movement," the letter reads. They also questioned the project's financial metrics and noted that no alternatives to the elevated corridor had been presented.

Left: Indiranagar Flyover;
Right: Indiranagar residents meeting B-SMILE Director (Technical)

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TENDER NOTICE

E-Tenders are invited on Outsource basis for Shree Saibaba Darshan Complex Work of Housekeeping Cleaning and Gardening Including Machinery etc. as well as mechanized housekeeping for Shree Saibaba Darshan Complex the duration of 2026-28. The tender details will be available on https://mahatenders.gov.in for downloading and terms & conditions visit our website www.sai.org.in.
Tender Publish starts date 25/06/2026 Time 11:00 am.
Tender submission end date 09/07/2026 Time 05:00 pm.

Goraksha Gadilkar, I.A.S
Chief Executive Officer,

DGIPR 2026-27/1288

Tax holiday ends for premium EVs

New Karnataka levy targets upscale battery-powered rides, raising affordability concerns despite growing enthusiasm for cleaner motoring choices

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Fresh levies hit high-end electric models, adding ownership costs. Industry watches buyer sentiment closely while authorities project ₹259 crore yearly collections

At a time when there is growing demand to promote electric vehicles (EVs) amid rising fuel prices and the Gulf crisis, premium electric vehicles are set to become more expensive as the State Government has withdrawn the lifetime road tax exemption for electric four-wheelers priced above ₹10 lakh. State officials said the decision was aimed at boosting government revenues. However, environmental activists claimed this marks a major policy shift in a state that has long positioned itself as one of India's leading electric vehicle markets.

The revised taxation structure comes at a time when rising petrol and diesel prices have pushed more consumers towards electric mobility. Since 2016, electric vehicles have enjoyed a near-complete tax-free regime after both the Centre and several state governments introduced incentives to accelerate EV adoption. The policy helped drive rapid growth in the sector, transforming electric vehicles from a niche product into a mainstream choice across urban and rural Karnataka.

Under the new rules, electric cars priced up to ₹10 lakh will continue to enjoy a tax exemption. However, EVs priced between ₹10 lakh and ₹25 lakh will now attract a lifetime road tax of 5 per cent of the vehicle's value. Vehicles costing more than ₹25 lakh will be subject to a 10 per cent lifetime tax. Electric two-wheelers, however, remain exempt from lifetime tax and will continue to receive the benefits available under the earlier policy.

A Transport Department official said, "This move follows the enactment of the Karnataka Motor Vehicles (Amendment) Act, 2026, which empowers the state to levy lifetime tax on high-value electric vehicles. The government is effectively rolling back the blanket tax exemption that has been in place for nearly a decade."

It may be noted that the Transport Department had earlier sought permission to impose lifetime tax on all categories of EVs, citing revenue losses. That proposal was rejected by the government. In 2024, the department returned with a revised proposal seeking an 18 per cent tax on electric vehicles priced above ₹20 lakh. The government eventually settled on the current structure, limiting taxation to vehicles worth more than ₹10 lakh, with higher rates for luxury models. Officials estimate that the new tax regime will generate an additional ₹259 crore in annual revenue for the state exchequer.

Despite the new levy, Karnataka remains one of India's strongest EV markets. The state currently ranks fourth in the country in terms of electric vehicle sales and registrations, behind Uttar Pradesh, Maharashtra and Tamil Nadu. According to Transport Department data, Karnataka has approximately 7.5 lakh electric vehicles on its roads.

The growth trajectory has been particularly strong over the past five years. EV sales in Karnataka have increased by 22 per cent during this period, reflecting rising consumer confidence in the technology. The state's annual EV adoption rate stands at 10.88 per cent, significantly higher than the national average of 8.21 per cent.

Anand K, an EV dealer, said, "The impact of the tax may be limited to the premium segment, where buyers are less price-sensitive. However, manufacturers and dealers are closely watching whether the move affects demand for mid-range electric SUVs and saloons that fall within the newly taxed 10 lakh to 25 lakh bracket. For consumers planning to switch to electric mobility, the message is clear: entry-level EVs remain tax-free, but premium electric cars will now come with a higher price tag."

Footpath cleanup drive from July 1

Civic agencies will roll out a citywide "Safe Footpath Campaign" from July 1 to reclaim pedestrian spaces, remove encroachments and improve walkability across major roads, Greater Bengaluru Development Minister Krishna Byre Gowda announced on Wednesday.

He said shop owners have been given time until July 1 to voluntarily clear goods, signboards and other materials placed on footpaths. After the deadline, civic authorities will begin a strict enforcement drive, removing encroachments and imposing hefty penalties on violators.

Stressing that walking on footpaths is a fundamental right of citizens, Byre Gowda said the Supreme Court has directed local bodies across the country to ensure unobstructed pedestrian movement. He added that Chief Minister DK Shivakumar has also instructed officials to take stringent action on the issue.

The city has nearly 13,000 km of road network, of which around 2,000 km comprises arterial and sub-arterial roads. These priority corridors will be the focus of the campaign, with authorities tasked with removing all obstacles that hinder safe and smooth pedestrian movement.

Calling footpaths public property belonging to Bengaluru's 1.5 crore residents, the minister urged traders and business owners to confine commercial activities within their premises and cooperate with the drive. He noted that safe and accessible footpaths have been a long-standing demand of citizens.

BM had flagged the danger in its June 15 cover story, 'Livin' on the Edge'

Highlighting the safety aspect, Byre Gowda said nearly 1,000 people die in road accidents in Bengaluru every year, and around 30 per cent of them are pedestrians. Many such fatalities could be prevented if pedestrians had access to safe and continuous footpaths, he said.

The minister also made it clear that parking on footpaths will not be tolerated. Vehicles found parked on pedestrian pathways will be towed away without exception.

Abandoned vehicles

He also announced a set of coordinated civic measures, including the identification of abandoned vehicles from July 1, with notices to owners and a seven-day removal window, after which they will be towed away and auctioned from 10 July; the allocation of ₹70 crore for upgrading nearly 2,000 km of footpaths across Bengaluru's five zones, with priority given to the repair of damaged slabs, kerbstones and uneven stretches; a ban on street vending and pushcart activities on footpaths along arterial and sub-arterial roads from July 1, with seizure of goods and penalties for violations; the adoption of scientific box-cutting methods and modern machinery for durable pothole repairs; and restrictions on bus stops and vehicle parking within 75 metres of traffic signals to reduce congestion, subject to coordinated civic measures, including the identification of abandoned vehicles from July 1, with notices to owners and a seven-day removal window, after which they will be towed away and auctioned from 10 July; the allocation of ₹70 crore for upgrading nearly 2,000 km of footpaths across Bengaluru's five zones, with priority given to the repair of damaged slabs, kerbstones and uneven stretches; a ban on street vending and pushcart activities on footpaths along arterial and sub-arterial roads from July 1, with seizure of goods and penalties for violations; the adoption of scientific box-cutting methods and modern machinery for durable pothole repairs; and restrictions on bus stops and vehicle parking within 75 metres of traffic signals to reduce congestion, subject to coordination with traffic police for enforcement. **BMB**

Wanted in 67 cases, finally behind bars

Banaswadi police have arrested a man wanted in 67 criminal cases across Kolar, Yadgir and Bengaluru.

Police found that he had been absconding and had failed to appear before courts in more than 30 non-bailable warrant cases. He also faces over five proclamation cases.

The arrest was made during the investigation of a ₹10,000 theft reported by a resident of HRBR Layout on March 23. Police tracked down the accused near Bagalur on 16 June, where he allegedly confessed to the crime. He was remanded in judicial custody on June 20. **BMB**

Snatch and dash trio finally caught

Malleshwaram police have arrested three persons in connection with a chain-snatching case and recovered a 22-gram gold chain and two two-wheelers worth ₹2.5 lakh.

The victim, a resident of 6th Cross, reported that two men on a two-wheeler snatched his gold chain near Nandini Booth Circle on June 8.Police arrested one accused in Agrahara Dasarahalli on June 12. Based on his confession, the other two accused were also apprehended.

The stolen chain, pledged with a gold loan company in Basaveshwaranagar, and the vehicle used in the crime were recovered on June 15. The accused were remanded in judicial custody on June 17. **BMB**

Lift request turns into gold chain heist

Jnanabharathi police have arrested a man for allegedly robbing a two-wheeler rider of a gold chain and mobile phone worth ₹1.7 lakh after seeking a lift. On the night of June 10, the accused allegedly sought a lift from a BGS Layout resident before snatching his gold chain and mobile phone and fleeing. He was arrested near Bhuvaneshwarinagar 2nd Stage on June 15. Police recovered the stolen items, and he was remanded in judicial custody on June 16. **BMB**

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Uncertainty whether line will be ready by end of this year too

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

begun even as the Blue Line remains under construction.

When the agreement was signed, the dollar was trading at around ₹74, valuing the loan at roughly ₹3,700 crore. Today, with the rupee hovering near ₹95 against the dollar, every dollar repaid costs BMRCL nearly ₹21 more than it did in 2021. For the $335.12 million reportedly drawn so far, the rupee liability has increased from about ₹2,480 crore to nearly ₹3,180 crore, translating into an additional forex burden of around ₹700 crore on the principal amount alone, excluding interest and other charges.

Industry estimates indicate that the corporation may have to set aside nearly Rs 150 crore every June and December towards loan repayments. Urban transport experts pointed out that the situation is particularly challenging because the Blue Line has not yet started operations and therefore generates no passenger or non-fare revenue. "When there is no income from the corridor, the repayments will have to be met through earnings from existing metro lines. Ultimately, the financial burden may also reflect on passengers," a mobility expert said.

Adding to the strain is the undisbursed portion of the loan. Around 164.88 million dollars remains with the lender, but BMRCL is still required to pay a commitment charge of 0.15 per cent on this amount. Such charges are levied because the funds are reserved exclusively for the borrower even if they have not yet been withdrawn.

A BMRCL official said, "The airport connectivity corridor, part of Metro Phase 2, was originally expected to be completed and opened for commercial operations by now. However, with construction still underway, there is uncertainty over whether the line will become operational even by the end of this year." As the delay stretches, so does the financial pressure on the metro operator.

Government committee recommends Rs 2.70 cr compensation per acre for land acquisition in Devanahalli

The Land Price Determination Advisory Committee of the Karnataka government on Wednesday recommended a compensation of Rs 2.70 crore per acre to the KIADB for 120 acres of land in Devanahalli near Bengaluru, where landowners have voluntarily agreed to part with their land for industrial development.

The decision was taken at a joint meeting of officials and landowners held at Aravinda Bhavan in Bengaluru on Wednesday, which was presided over by Karnataka Industrial Areas Development Board Special Deputy Commissioner A N Raghunandan, an official statement said.

Raghunandan said the recommendation would now be placed before the KIADB Board for approval.

Landowners who don't want money can opt for 10,781 sq ft land land in industrial area

He added that landowners who do not wish to receive monetary compensation would have the option of obtaining 10,781 square feet of developed land in the industrial area for every acre of agricultural land acquired.

He noted that the farmers had voluntarily consented to the acquisition of their land and that a final notification under the provisions of the KIADB Act had been issued on the 16th of this month and published in the official gazette.

He further stated that the compensation recommended is the highest ever offered in the Devanahalli region and reflects the government's commitment to ensuring fair compensation for the affected farmers. **PTI**

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BANU Bee R/o #645, 7th cross, Munianjappa Block, RT. Nagar, Bangalore: 560032, I have changed my name to Banu Taj.

I, Manasi Kumari Nandi, D/o Bishnu Charan Nandi, residing at Bengaluru, hereby declare that Manasi Nandi and Manasi Kumari Nandi are one and the same person and both names pertain to me.

I, Sri Lekha Babu W/O Govind Jalakkam R/O No 19 6th Cross Lic Colony Near Lakshmi Venkateshwara Temple 3rd Block Jayanagar Bengaluru - 560011 Have Changed My Name to Srilekha for All Purposes.

I, Gangavva Handed R/o 1248/11/4 ,Flat-007, SLV Essenza Jakkur Road Nehru Nagar B'lore-560064 have changed my name to Kavya Prashantgouda Bhavikatti.

I P Rijwana Basha R/o 120,2nd Floor,3rd Cross, Someshwara Nagar Jayanagar,1st Block B'lore-560011 have changed my name to Rizwan Basha.

I, Alok kumar nahar S/o Amrit Lal Nahar R/o Flat No.801, Tower 6, Salarpuria Sattva Divinity, Nayandahalli, Bangalore South, Bengaluru-560 026, Karnataka. Changed my name as Alok nahar for all future purposes

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K Srinivasan s/o Late Captain A K Murthy and Kalyani Srinivasan w/o K Srinivasan both residing at No.C-301, GR Lavender, JP Nagar 7th Phase, Bengaluru-560078 have lost my original sale deed registered vide document no.JPN-1-01532-2022-23 of Book-1 and store in CD No.JPN1374, dated 13-05-2022 registered in the office of the sub-registrar JP Nagar, Bengaluru. Finder please Contact MOBILE - 9444960689/ 9952957718

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BMW 6 Series Gran Turismo 630i LCI M Sport 50 Jahre M Edition	2022	Petrol	Carbon Black	12,764	₹58,00,000
BMW 3 Series Gran Limousine 320Ld LCI M Sport	2024	Diesel	Portimao Blue	10,924	₹55,00,000
BMW 3 Series Gran Turismo 3 GT Luxury Line	2018	Diesel	Alpine White	61,979	₹30,00,000
BMW X3 xDrive 30d M Sport	2016	Diesel	Alpine White	1,12,256	₹23,00,000
BMW X1 sDrive 18d M Sport	2025	Diesel	Space Silver	7,637	₹55,00,000
BMW X1 sDrive 18i M Sport	2025	Petrol	Alpine White	4,917	₹52,00,000
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Life cycle of a black spot

Massive cleaning drive on the main road between GM Palya and Malleshpalya on Monday

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

this problem," said Satyavani S, a resident of Talacauvery Layout.

Stating that cleaning cannot end with sweeping, Poornima Shetty, president of United RWA of KonenaAgrahara, and Founder Director of IronFeather Foundation (Safety for Women), said the real measure of cleanliness is what happens after the streets are swept. "Our pourakarmikas are doing their part, but the unattended piles of swept waste lying on the street highlight the need for a stronger, well-oiled civic system. A clean city requires responsibility, coordination, and timely action from every level of the waste management chain, completing the entire cycle of cleanliness," said Shetty.

One can find a huge black spot on Jeevan Bhima Nagar Main Road, near Dr BR Ambedkar statue. The place has become a dumping place for all sorts of waste and debris. The road between GM Palya and Malleshpalya in CV Raman Nagar is also filled with blackspots. BJP activists, under the guidance of CV Raman Nagar MLA S Raghu, in association with Bengaluru Central City Corporation, organised a massive cleaning programme to clear dust, debris and accumulated waste.

Expressing concern over accumulated debris on footpaths in Basavanagudi, especially around Gandhi Bazar, Guruprasad Rotti, Secretary of Basavanagudi Heritage Residents' Welfare Association, said the failure to clear the mud kept on the footpath encourages people to dump more waste on it. "With no action from the authorities concerned and dumping of waste by irresponsible vendors, the spot ends up as a black spot," said Guruprasad.

Second wife, daughter can get accident compensation

HIGH COURT

Bangalore Mirror Bureau
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The Karnataka High Court has ruled that a deceased person's dependent second wife and daughter are entitled to receive compensation under the Motor Vehicles Act, even where the legal status of the relationship is disputed, provided they can establish dependency on the deceased.

In its judgment in Asha & Anr v Ramakrishna S Ghatge & Ors, a Division Bench comprising Justice Jayant Banerji and Justice Tara Vitasta Ganju enhanced the compensation awarded by the Motor Accident Claims Tribunal (MACT) by over Rs 15 lakh after considering the deceased's second wife and minor daughter as dependants.

The Court observed that the determination of who qualifies as a legal representative for compensation under the Motor Vehicles Act cannot remain confined to rigid legal definitions. Referring to a Supreme Court precedent, the Bench noted that the expression "legal representative" carries a broader meaning in motor accident compensation cases.

Quoting the apex court's interpretation, the Bench said that a legal representative is not limited to a spouse, parent or child. Any person who represents the deceased's estate or suffers a loss due to the death in a motor vehicle accident may seek compensation.

The Court consequently directed the insurer to pay an additional compensation of Rs 15,02,400 with 9 per cent annual interest.

Zoo safety push gains national framework

The Central Zoo Authority (CZA) on Wednesday informed the Karnataka High Court that it has constituted an expert committee to prepare a Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) regulating the entry of zoo personnel, veterinarians and other authorised individuals into animal enclosures at zoological parks across India. A Division Bench led by Chief Justice Vibhu Bakhru and Justice K S Hemalekha was hearing a PIL filed by wildlife conservationist Bhuvan M, who sought directions for a comprehensive SOP after citing 17 incidents, including fatal attacks in Karnataka. The plea highlighted risks faced by staff and handlers,

Determination of who qualifies as legal representative under Motor Vehicles Act cannot be confined to rigid legal definition

including deaths at Tyavarekoppa and Bannerghatta parks. The court closed proceedings noting the CZA's ongoing nationwide efforts to frame uniform safety guidelines.

Mystery deepens over missing campus dogs

The Karnataka High Court has permitted the continuation of an investigation into the disappearance of 21 stray dogs from the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) campus in Bengaluru, while granting protection to two DRDO officials from coercive action during the probe. The case stems from allegations that several stray dogs went missing from the high-security campus, prompting registration of a First Information Report (FIR) under Section 11 of the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act. While hearing petitions filed by the officials, the court declined to halt the investigation, stressing that the allegations warranted inquiry. At the same time, it directed that no coercive measures be taken against the DRDO personnel. Animal welfare activists have sought accountability, arguing that the circumstances surrounding the missing animals require examination. With the High Court refusing to interfere, the police probe continues.

Child survivors' support systems face audit

The Karnataka High Court has permitted a minor survivor of sexual assault to medically terminate her 29-week pregnancy and has simultaneously directed the State government to examine whether child victims of sexual offences are receiving the care and support mandated under law. Justice Suraj Govindaraj directed the Director of the Department of Women and Child Development to conduct a statewide compliance audit on the implementation of earlier court directions in cases involving pregnant minor sexual assault survivors. The audit will assess timely intervention, counselling, rehabilitation and statutory benefits. The court ordered authorities to submit a report within four weeks, detailing compliance, procedures followed and any lapses identified.

Key traffic diversions in view of Moharam tomorrow

In view of the Moharam festival celebrations by the Muslim community on June 26, Bengaluru Traffic Police have announced temporary traffic diversions in the jurisdiction of Ashok Nagar Traffic Police Station to ensure smooth vehicular movement and public safety.

The diversions will remain in effect from 11 am to 5.30 pm on Friday. Vehicles heading towards Hosur Road via Brigade Road and Richmond Road through Vellara Junction will divert at Old Police Station Junction and proceed through Wood Street, Tate Lane and Richmond Road. Traffic from the Adugodi side will divert at Cemetery Cross near Anepalya Junction. Heavy vehicles will use Wilson Garden and Siddaiah Road routes. — BMB

Priyank Kharge trolled over traffic challans

Karnataka Minister Priyank Kharge faced trolling on social media after a post highlighting alleged traffic violations linked to his vehicle, shortly after he spoke about the importance of road safety and adherence to traffic rules.

In his social media post, Kharge urged that traffic regulations such as wearing seatbelts and following speed limits are crucial for saving lives and ensuring safer roads. He urged motorists to drive responsibly, stressing that road safety is a collective responsibility. However, soon after the post, a social media user called out the minister, alleging that a vehicle registered as KA42 GA 0099, reportedly linked to Kharge, had been caught violating traffic rules. According to the post, the vehicle has four pending traffic challans totalling ₹2,500, including offences such as over speeding and ignoring basic safety measures. The troll post questioned whether traffic rules applied to the minister as well and suggested that he avail himself of the ongoing 50% traffic fine discount to clear the dues. The incident sparked debate, with users accusing the minister of hypocrisy. — BMB

Citizens'-funded paver infra damaged during repairs

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Residents of Brookefield have raised concerns over the alleged damage caused to community-funded paver block infrastructure during recent electrical repair work carried out by BESCOM.

According to residents, reusable pavers installed by the Brookefield community to facilitate easier access to underground cables were broken and left scattered after a cable repair operation. The residents claim that the pavers, designed specifically to avoid repeated road excavation, were damaged despite being intended as a practical solution for utility maintenance.

Arvind Keerthi, a resident associated with Brookefield Layouts, said the community had invested considerable effort and resources into addressing a recurring problem of road damage caused by frequent utility repairs.

"We paid for and installed these pavers ourselves after repeatedly seeing the road dug up for cable repairs last year. The issue has not just been the cables. Poorly installed BWSSB pipes had also affected BESCOM cables, and because the cables were located very close to the road surface, failures and repairs kept happening," Keerthi said.

According to him, residents spent months studying the problem and exploring alternatives before arriving at the paver-based solution. The pavers were installed in August last year and were designed to be easily removed and reinstalled whenever maintenance was required.

"This is actually a standard engineering approach. The pavers can be lifted, repairs carried out, and then the road restored quickly without repeated excavation. It sounds simple, but there was a lot of thought behind the design and implementation. The objective was to keep the road flat and avoid the constant digging that residents had been dealing with for years," he said.

However, residents allege that during a recent repair operation, the pavers were dug up crudely, several were broken, and the area was left in a damaged condition.

"The pavers were strewn around and a crater was left on the road. The entire purpose of installing reusable pavers was defeated. Instead of carefully removing and replacing them, they were damaged during the work," Keerthi alleged.

He further questioned what he described as a lack of accountability in handling public infrastructure.

"These pavers were installed at private expense for public benefit. Residents spent their own money to create a solution that would make maintenance easier for utility agencies as well. It is disappointing when such infrastructure is damaged without any apparent concern for the effort and investment that went into creating it," he said.

Despite the damage, residents chose to restore the infrastructure at their own expense rather than wait for official intervention.

"Whatever the cost, we fixed it ourselves because the road needed to be restored. The issue is not just about money. It is about respecting public infrastructure and ensuring that work is carried out responsibly," Keerthi said.

Residents have called for greater coordination among civic agencies and utility providers to prevent repeated damage to roads and community-funded infrastructure, particularly in areas where local communities have invested in long-term solutions to recurring civic problems.

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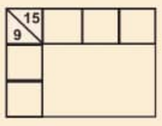
SOLVE IT IN A MINUTE

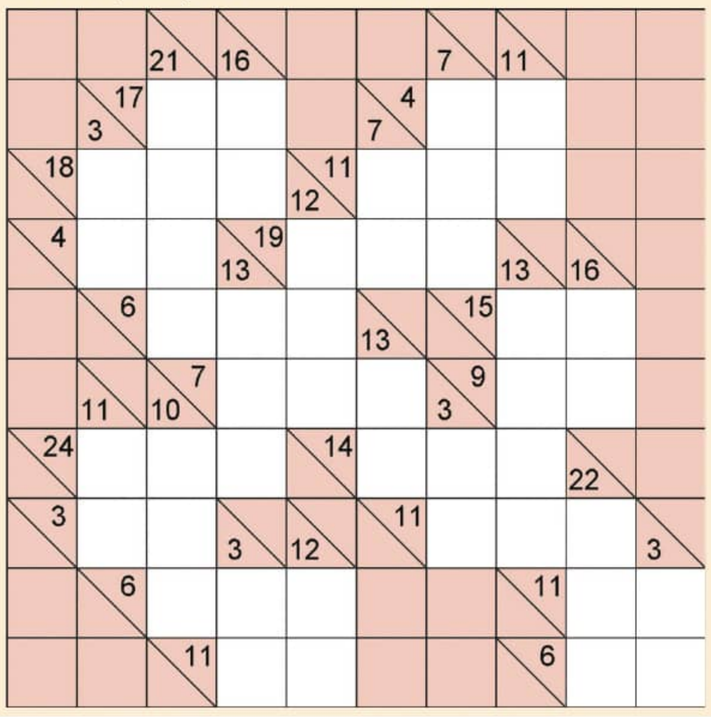
The product of the first two digits of a 3-digit number is 45 and the product of its first and third digits is 18. What is the number?

Kakuro

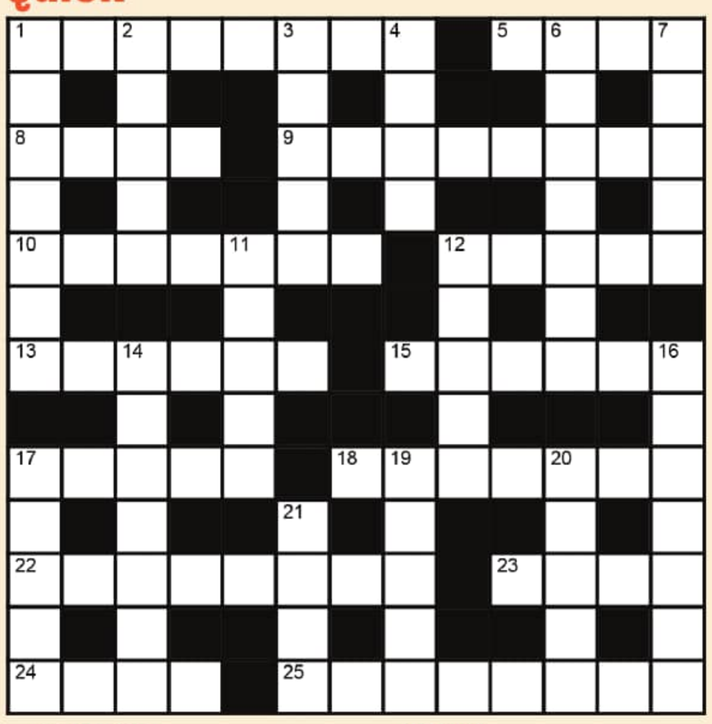
The numbers in the grey squares refer to the sums of the digits that you must fill into the empty spaces directly below or to the right of the grey square containing the number. For instance, in the given example, the 3 boxes horizontally next to 15 must contain 3 digits that add up to 15, whereas for 9, it is the 2 boxes placed vertically under it that must add up to 9. No zeros are used here, only the digits 1 through 9.



Note: A digit cannot appear more than once in any particular digit combination. For instance, in the example, we cannot have the combination of 4+7+4 for 15.



Quick



ACROSS

1 For the greatest or furthest degree; totally? (2,3,3)
5 Indian music form (4)
8 Privy to (2,2)
9 Studying (8)
10 Barbaric (7)
12 Guide in a certain direction (5)
13 Annually (6)
15 Inject; insinuate (6)
17 Hurts; injures (5)
18 Style of speaking (7)
22 Rebound, as a bullet (8)
23 Farewell (2-2)
24 Belgian river (4)
25 Shelled reptile (8)

DOWN

1 One of two metro stations in the Ulsoor area (7)
2 Canine or molar (5)
3 Mediterranean Isle (5)
4 Diagnostic aid (1-3)
6 Food or nourishment (7)
7 Presage or portend (5)
11 Units of length (5)
12 To do with sound (5)
14 External part of the ear (7)
16 Ancestry (7)
17 Harass (5)
19 Bury-"nitre" anagram? (5)
20 India's cricket trophy (5)
21 Attempt or try (4)

Quoteuncode

This puzzle is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that Q equals C, it will equal C throughout the puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.

Today's CLUE: B EQUALS O

E SBBU OKEZ PMBKLZJKH LILDXJLU ZBG MN ALJJLW JQEZ E OLWTLDJ OKEZ LILDXJLU ZLIJ GLLY.

Linemaro

If you were a transformer, you'd be a HOTobot, and your name would be Optimus Fine

Mindchow

The best time to plant a tree was 20 years ago. The second best time is now.

Joke of the day

Did you know that he used to be a tap dancer until he fell into the sink?

Loop

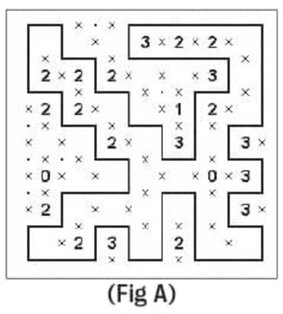
Rules

» Connect adjacent dots with vertical or horizontal lines, creating a single loop (Fig A). » Crossovers or branches are not allowed (As shown by dotted lines in Fig B). » Numbers in the puzzle indicate the number of lines that should surround it, while empty cells may be surrounded by any number of lines. » You can't draw lines around zeros. » Each puzzle has just one unique solution.

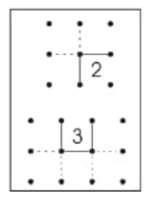
How to begin:

Example (Fig A) – Begin with the zero next to 3. Since no lines can be drawn around zero, mark crosses around it, as shown. Now there is a cross in one space around 3. So we know the three lines of 3 can only be drawn in the remaining three spaces. Next, these lines can only be extended in one direction each. Continue, using the same logic.

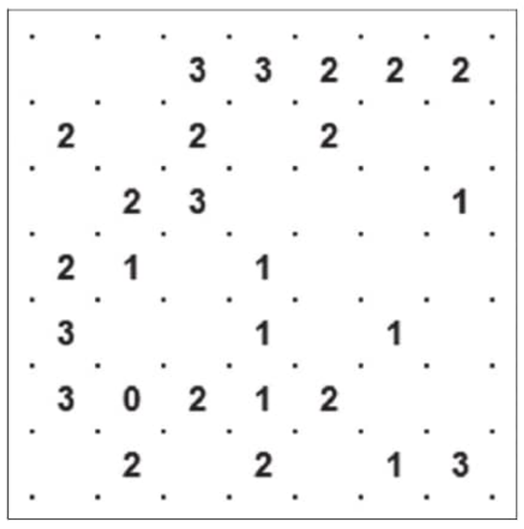
Hints: Keep eliminating possibilities by marking crosses in spaces between dots where a line isn't possible, i.e., if you have already completed required lines or where a line extension may create a branch or cause a dead-end (Fig B)



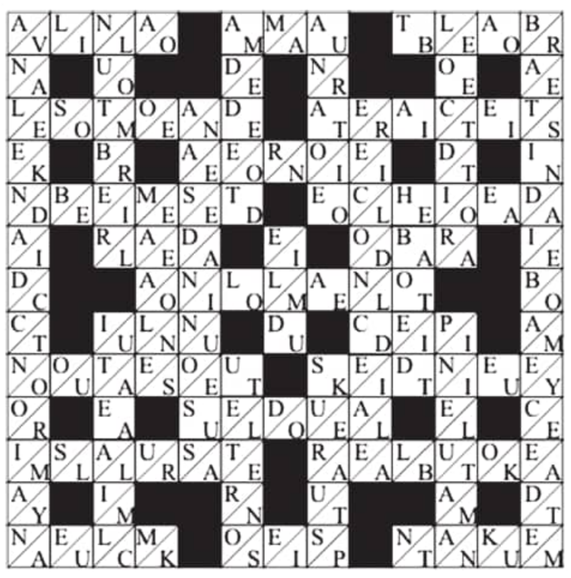
(Fig A)



(Fig B) Not Allowed



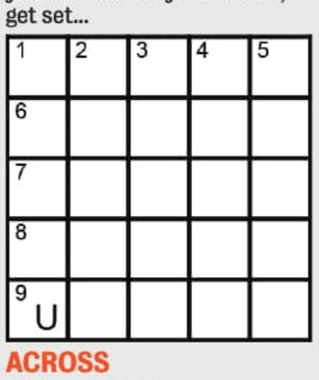
Strikeout



This crossword has no clues and the answer is there waiting for you. All you have to do is find it in each square. You have a choice of two letters, one of which you must strike out. If you choose correctly, you will be left with a grid that contains real words.

Fast five

How long do you think it will take you to unscramble the ten words shown below and fit them correctly into the grid in the order given one letter has already been entered to get you started? on your marks, get set...



ACROSS

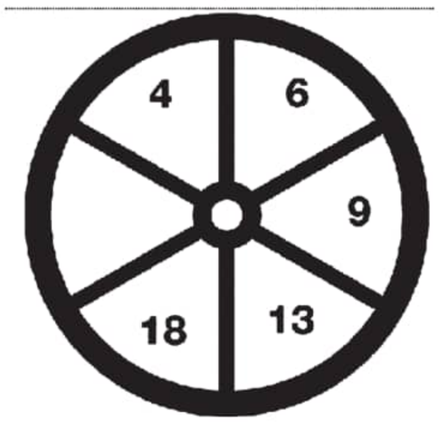
1 Dam it; 6 No son; 7 Jaunt; 8 Torte; 9 Suers

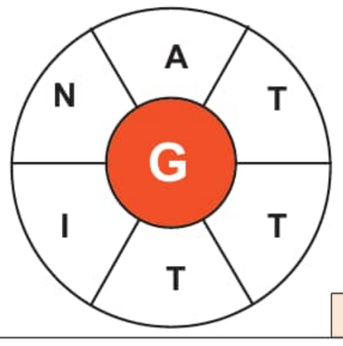
DOWN

1 A Juno; 2 Us dot; 3 Monet; 4 Inert; 5 Stars

Mensapuzzle

Which number is missing from the wheel?





Bull's eye

How many words of four or more letters can you make from the letters shown? Every word must contain the central letter. There should be one seven-letter word. British English Dictionary is used as a reference.

03 Average; **04** Good; **05** Outstanding

SudokuChallenge

9			1		7			3
1								8
	5	2		4		9	7	
			6	3	9			
		3	4		5	8		
			7	1	8			
	8	1		6		2	9	
4								6
5			2		3			4

To solve a Sudoku puzzle, every digit from one to nine must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows and in each of the nine boxes.

Gofigure

Place the four numbers in the first, third, fifth, and seventh boxes and whatever operators you care to use in the second, fourth, and sixth boxes in the correct order to get the answer. Use the numbers only once.

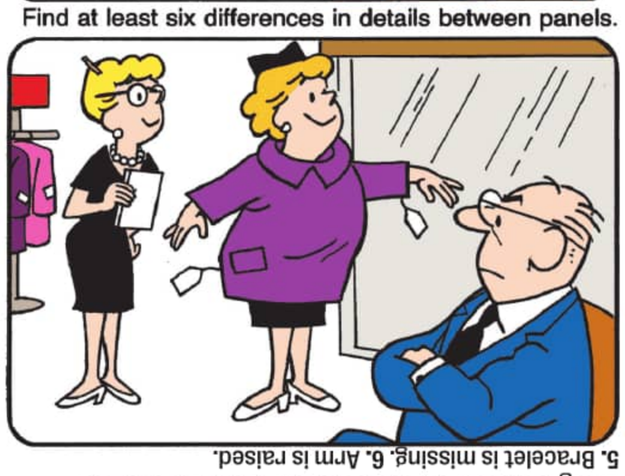
Easy = 17
2 2 4 9

Medium = 14
2 3 7 9

Hard = 21
1 5 8 8

Hocusfocus

Find at least six differences in details between panels.



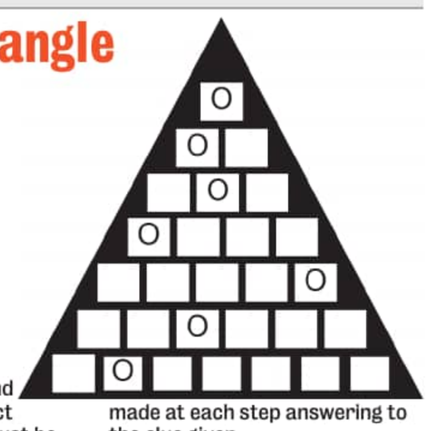
Differences: 1. Man's fingers are not showing. 2. Tag is moved. 3. Foot is moved. 4. Skirt is shorter. 5. Bracelet is missing. 6. Arm is raised.

Riddler

When you behead a word, you remove the first letter and still have a valid word. You will be given clues for the two words, longer word first. 1. Was in debt to -> Married 2. Allowing access -> Writing implement 3. Organ that produces eggs -> Differ

Alpha triangle

1 Atomic number 8
2 Either
3 Fish eggs
4 Completed
5 Left-hand page
6 Herds
7 Rules



Beginning at the top move towards the bottom seven-letter word by adding a letter at each step and rearranging. A correct and different word must be made at each step answering to the clue given.

DIFFICULT TO SOLVE? FIND THESE SOLUTIONS ON THE NEXT PAGE »

COMICS

Popeye

I KIN UN'NERSTAN' WHY YOU WANTS TO LEAVE HOME!
GREAT! I KNEW YOU'D REALIZE I HAVE TO FIND MESELF!
I WILL BE ON ME OWN! I WILL BE INDEPENDENT!
I WILL PROVE I YAM AS ABLE AS ANY ADULT!
ALL I NEEDS FROM YOU IS A FEW HUNDRED BUCKS FER A GRUBSTAKE!
9-23
popeye.com

Bizarrotrip

© 2026 BIZARRO STUDIOS
Tapping maples just isn't the same without you, Cyrus.
REQUIEM FOR A VERMONTER
Wayno & PIRRO 3.14.26
BIZARRO.COM
Dist. by King Features

Diamond Lil

I TRIED THOSE NEW CHOCOLATE-COVERED POTATO CHIPS
REALLY?
YOU SAID THEY SOUNDED DISGUSTING
I DID, BUT THE MORE I ATE THE MORE THEY GREW ON ME
HOW MANY DID YOU EAT?
147 BAGS
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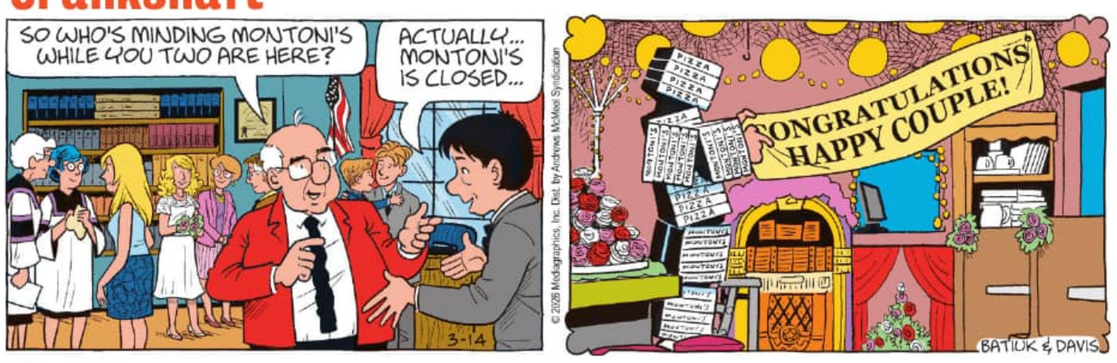
www.creators.com
Bartlett

Hart of the city

I HEARD THAT TOBY FLIRTS WITH SMART GIRLS TO GET THEM TO DO HIS HOMEWORK FOR HIM.
TOBY THINKS I'M SMART??
I JUST DON'T WANT YOU TO GET TAKEN ADVANTAGE OF. I'M DOING MY DUE DILIGENCE AS A FRIEND.
I CAN'T BELIEVE TOBY THINKS I'M SMART.
HEART OF THE CITY © 2026 ANDREWS MCMEEL
GOCOMICS.COM/HEARTOFTHECITY

Crankshaft


SO WHO'S MINDING MONTONI'S WHILE YOU TWO ARE HERE?
ACTUALLY... MONTONI'S IS CLOSED...
CONGRATULATIONS HAPPY COUPLE!
© 2026 Mediagraphics, Inc. Dist. by Andrews McMeel Syndication
BATIUK & DAVIS

Mutts

WRITTEN IN THE STARS

DR SUNDEEP KOCHAR

If it's your birthday today

Adventure calls your name, urging you to break free from your rigid daily routine. Professionally, taking a creative risk sets you apart from your cautious peers. A sudden expense regarding transportation might pop up, so budget carefully. Romance thrives on deep, philosophical debates. Strengthen your core muscles to alleviate recent lower back discomfort and improve posture.

Aries Mar 21 – Apr 20

Despite feeling unmotivated today, responsibilities still demand your attention and effort. Completing important tasks earlier helps create a calmer, more relaxing evening. Staying organized and focused now allows you rewarding downtime later peacefully.

Taurus Apr 21 – May 20

A meaningful discovery about yourself brings emotional clarity and inner peace today. Understanding your true desires helps strengthen confidence while guiding future decisions naturally. Embracing authenticity creates fulfillment, balance, and deeper personal happiness moving forward beautifully.

Gemini May 21 – Jun 21

Powerful motivation finally arrives today, helping procrastination disappear completely from your routine. Responsibilities feel easier to complete while productivity rises naturally. Embrace this focused energy confidently and enjoy accomplishing everything smoothly without unnecessary stress today.

Cancer Jun 22 – July 23

Creativity flows beautifully through every area of your life today, especially work and artistic pursuits. Your innovative ideas receive admiration from others naturally. Confidence in your imagination helps attract recognition, appreciation, and exciting opportunities ahead.

Leo Jul 24 – Aug 23

Strong emotions may create temporary overwhelm today, though these feelings remain completely natural and human. Allow yourself patience and understanding instead of self-criticism. Emotional waves eventually settle, bringing clarity, healing, and inner peace afterward naturally.

Virgo Aug 24 – Sep 23

Excitement and intensity surround your experiences today, encouraging adventurous choices and spontaneous fun. Enjoy every moment fully while remaining mindful of your wellbeing. Balancing thrill with caution helps you create joyful memories safely and confidently.

Libra Sep 24 – Oct 22

Procrastination may create unnecessary stress today, especially regarding important details and scheduling responsibilities. Creating a clear checklist early keeps everything organized beautifully. Planning ahead carefully prevents last-minute chaos while helping your day flow smoothly and calmly.

Scorpio Oct 23 – Nov 22

Looking beyond obvious solutions helps you discover important answers and creative breakthroughs today. Thinking differently opens exciting possibilities naturally. Expanding your perspective encourages smarter decisions while guiding you toward clarity, understanding, and meaningful progress successfully.

Sagittarius Nov 23 – Dec 22

Creative inspiration finally returns today after a long period feeling uninspired or blocked emotionally. Something unexpected during your routine sparks exciting new ideas. Embrace this motivation fully and allow your imagination to flourish beautifully again.

Capricorn Dec 23 – Jan 20

Your personal interests and hobbies deserve attention today instead of endless work responsibilities. Reconnecting with activities you genuinely enjoy restores emotional balance beautifully. Prioritising happiness alongside ambition prevents burnout while bringing excitement back into life naturally.

Aquarius Jan 21 – Feb 19

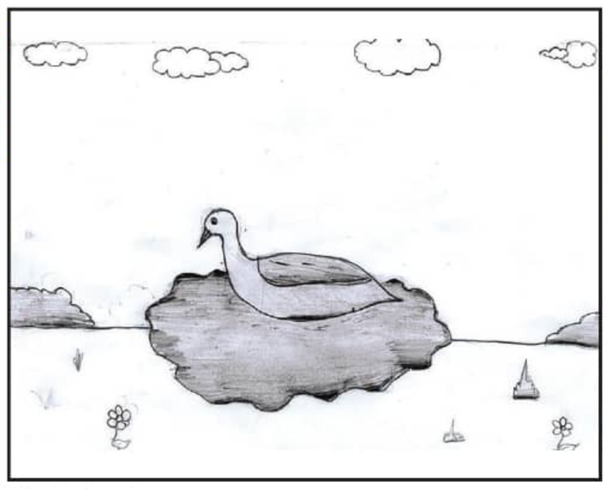
A clear sign encouraging action finally appears today, helping important decisions feel easier and more exciting. Avoid delaying opportunities unnecessarily. Acting quickly and confidently allows positive experiences, growth, and rewarding possibilities to unfold beautifully ahead.

Pisces Feb 20 – Mar 20

Someone close may request financial advice today, though becoming deeply involved could create unnecessary complications later. Offering gentle support without taking responsibility protects relationships beautifully while allowing others to handle their own important decisions independently.

www.sundeepkochar.com

KIDZONE



Dhirthi, Bengaluru

Visweth, Bengaluru

Kidzone, Bangalore Mirror, No. 74/2, Sanjana Plaza, 4th & 5th Floor, Elephant Rock Road, Jayanagar 3rd block, Bengaluru-560 011;
Please send hard copies of your artwork in A4 size only.

SOLUTIONS

SOLVE IN 1M

Factors of 45 are 9 & 5
First two digits must be (9,5) or (5,9)
Product of first and third digits =18
18 cannot be divided by 5
So, first digit has to be 9
The third digit is 18 / 9 = 2
The number is 952

RIDDLER

1. Owed -> Wed,
2. Open -> Pen,
3. Ovary -> Vary,

FAST FIVE

A	D	M	I	T
N	O	O	N	S
J	U	N	T	A
O	T	T	E	R
U	S	E	R	S

BULL'S EYE

gain, gait, giant, gnat, TATTING

STRIKE OUT

V	I	N	A		A	M	U		B	L	A	B		
A		U		D		N			E		A			
L	O	M	O	N	D		T	R	A	C	E	S		
E		B		E	E	R	I	E		T		I		
D	E	E	M	E	D		E	C	H	O	E	D		
I		R	E	D		E		O	A	R		I		
C		A	I	L	M	E	N	T				O		
T	I		N	N		U		C	E	P		M		
O	U	T	S	E	T		K	I	D	N	E	Y		
R		A		S	E	O	U	L		E		C		
I	L	L	U	S	E		R	E	B	U	K	E		
I		L		S		T	A	T	A		T			
A		I		N		U		M			M	T		
N	E	C	K		S	I	S		T	A	K	E		

QUICK

T	O	T	H	E	M	A	X		R	A	G	A		
R		O		A		R		L		U				
I	N	O	N		L	E	A	R	N	I	N	G		
N		T		T		Y		M		U				
I	N	H	U	M	A	N		S	T	E	E	R		
I				I		O		N				T		
Y	E	A	R	L	Y		I	N	S	T	I	L		
A		U		E				I				I		
H	A	R	M	S		D	I	C	T	I	O	N		
A		I		S		N		R		T		E		
R	I	C	O	H	E	T		T	A	T	A			
R		L		O		E		N		G				
Y	S	E	R		T	O	R	T	O	I	S	E		

SUDOKU

9	6	4	1	8	7	5	2	3
1	3	7	9	5	2	6	4	8
8	5	2	3	4	6	9	7	1
2	4	8	6	3	9	7	1	5
7	1	3	4	2	5	8	6	9
6	9	5	7	1	8	4	3	2
3	8	1	5	6	4	2	9	7
4	2	9	8	7	1	3	5	6
5	7	6	2	9	3	1	8	4

MENSA PUZZLE

24. Working clockwise, numbers increase by 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6.

QUOTE UNCODE

A good plan violently executed now is better than a perfect plan executed next week.

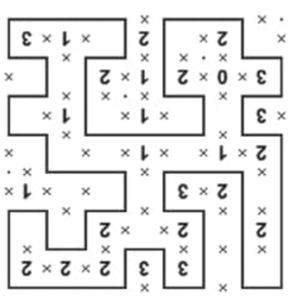
ALPHA TRIANGLE

0, Or, Roe, Over, Verso, Droves, Governs.

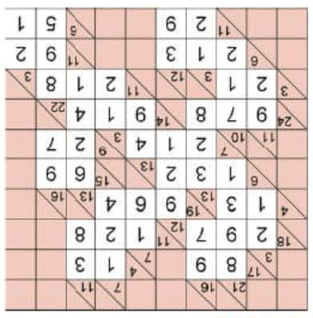
GO FIGURE

Easy
2 + 4 + 2 + 9 = 17
Medium
9 x 2 + 3 - 7 = 14
Hard
8 + 8 / 1 + 5 = 21

LOOP



KAKURO



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 # Promise fulfilled
40-year-old promise kept: Kamal Haasan produces Rajinikanth's 'Dharman'

SANDALWOOD SHOTS

Y MAHESWARA REDDY

250th movie

Veteran actor Sundar Raj is excited about a remarkable milestone in his acting career. The teaser of his 250th movie Chargesheet was unveiled by Karnataka Film Chamber of Commerce president Jayamala while Action Prince Dhruva Sarja was the special guest at the function.

"The teaser has come out well. I am waiting to watch the movie at the theater. I am aware of Sundar Raj's work ethic. He does not take anything for granted. Talent is a must for any actor to survive in the Kannada movie industry. Udbhava, in which Sundar Raj uncle played a key role, is my favourite movie," Dhruva Sarja said.

Sundar Raj said Jayamala made it to the function despite a busy schedule. "My passion for acting made me join the theater," Sundar Raj said. He said he was happy to play the lead in the movie that is based on a real incident that took place in JP Nagar.

Kannada OTT platform

Aravind Venkatesh Reddy of AVR Films known for making Kannada and Tamil movies has launched AVR Cine Max, a dedicated OTT for Kannada movies. Director Avinash Sringeri Divakar, the grandson of veteran comedy actor late Narasimharaju is the in-charge for the AVR Cine Max.

Prominent personalities including Karnataka Film Chamber of Commerce president Jayamala, veteran director-cum-actor TS Nagabharana, Nagathihalli Chandrasekhar, TN Seetharam, P Seshadri, Shashank, Naganna, actor Doddanna, Mukhyamantri Chandru, Sundar Raj, Mohan, music director Gurukiran, Thriller Manju, Shivadwaj, veteran actress Girija Lokesh, Sudharani and others were present on the occasion.

"I wish good luck to Aravind Venkatesh Reddy and Avinash Sringeri Divakar. I want this OTT platform to help Kannada movie producers," Jayamala said.

Reddy said the OTT platform is by Kannadigas, for Kannadigas. "The objective of AVR Cine Max is to facilitate Kannada movies reach global audiences. We already have 750 Kannada movies. Apart from movies, we want to focus on reality shows, sports, music, and live programmes," he said.

New look

Actress Pooja Hegde flaunted her new hairstyle through her latest social media post.

She took to her official Instagram handle and published a video of herself where she was seen running her hair through her freshly chopped short hair. The 'Beast' actress captioned the post, "I'm a short hair girlie now (sic)", followed by a smiling face emoticon.

Reacting to her new look, users dropped comments such as "Short Hair or Long... You're the best girlie", "Love this one you", "You looking gorgeous", and "Beautiful hair , stunning look , Pooja u are so beautiful", along with others. Pooja's feed is full of such lovely updates from both her personal and professional life.Recently, the 'Deva' actress treated her Instagram family with a glimpse of her latest workout session.

She uploaded a fun video of herself walking backwards on a treadmill in style while recording herself from her phone. Pooja opted for an orange crop top.

Pooja was recently seen as the leading lady in romantic comedy 'Hai Jawani Toh Ishq Hona Hai'. —IANS

CINEMA IN HER HEART

She may be a successful content creator but films are Sonakshi's true love

Sonakshi Sinha has successfully carved out a significant space for herself in the digital world with over a million YouTube subscribers; she is quick to clarify that her heart truly belongs to acting. The actress opened up about her cinematic journey and the changing beauty standards in Indian films.

With over 15 years in the film industry under her belt, Sonakshi sees content creation as simply another way to stay connected with her fans rather than a serious career pursuit. While her makeup tutorials and personal vlogs have earned her a dedicated online following, she is clear that it is not what defines her professionally. Talking about her digital presence, the actress said, "The digital space has really flourished in the last few years, and it's also a great way for me to reach my audience directly, which is why I'm on it. This is something that I can do by being my authentic self, and that's why it doesn't feel like work but fun. I'm not making it my main source of income. It will always be a by-product of what I'm doing."

The actress made it clear that while connecting with fans online brings her joy, acting will always be at the core of everything she does professionally. She also took a moment to reflect on how beauty has been portrayed in Indian cinema over the decades, describing it as something that has no boundaries. She praised the industry for celebrating diverse expressions of beauty across generations of actresses, saying, "I love the fact that Indian cinema has been able to represent beauty in its true form right from the very beginning. There have been icons, actresses who have really come into their own, actresses who carry a part of themselves and show that to the people when it comes to beauty. Cinema does have a very big part to play in how it influences and shapes beauty, trends, and standards." —ETimes

Making a polka dotted statement

Priyanka Chopra Jonas made a stylish appearance at the Cannes Lions International Festival of Creativity 2026 in France, where she participated in a discussion centred on culture, creativity and global influence.

The actress dazzled in a polka-dot Heloise dress and topped the look off with a hat and sunglasses. Before taking the stage, Chopra was seen warmly interacting with fans gathered at the beachside venue, stopping to greet attendees and pose for selfies.

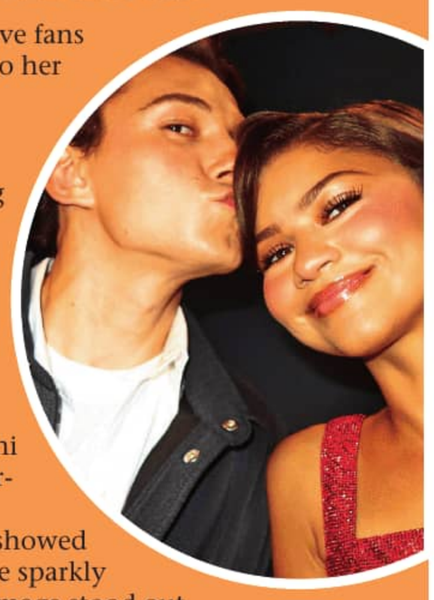
Chopra was among the few celebrity speakers at the festival, where she spoke on "Building Legacy: Moving Culture Through Originality and Borderless Expression."

Besides Chopra, media icon Oprah Winfrey was also present, along with fashion designer Stella McCartney, Alan Cumming, Janelle Monáe and JB Smoove, adding their star power to the event.

Chopra's participation at the event comes amid a busy schedule. The actress has been filming her Indian movie 'Varanasi' with SS Rajamouli. After wrapping up the project, she is set to begin her next production, co-starring Orlando Bloom which is expected to go on floors in August. In her latest interview, the actress also teased an upcoming project with Angelina Jolie, however, she did not reveal if it would be a feature film or a joint philanthropic venture. — ETimes

Just married!

Actress Zendaya gave fans a rare glimpse into her relationship with husband Tom Holland, sharing an intimate photo from their ongoing "Spider-Man: Brand New Day" press tour in Rome, according to People.



Taking to Instagram, the 29-year-old actress posted a series of pictures from the Italian leg of the tour. "Just jumping on to say hi from our stop in Rome @spidermanmovie," she captioned the post.While most of the photos showed Zendaya posing in a red and blue sparkly Spider-Man-themed outfit, one image stood out to fans, a selfie showing Holland, 30, leaning in to kiss the top of her head as she smiled for the camera. The rare display of affection drew an enthusiastic response in the comments section, with one fan writing, "THE LAST PIC!!!! I JUST GASPED!!!!" Another commented, "here for the last slide," while a third user expressed excitement over the same photo.Holland followed up shortly after with his own post from the Rome stop, sharing a black-and-white photo of the couple holding hands and laughing on a rooftop. "Nowhere quite like Rome. I absolutely love it here. Spider-Man Brand New Day in theatres 29 July," he wrote. — ANI